

Claims

1. Use of an inhibitor of PACAP signalling for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of thrombocytopenia.
2. Use according to claim 1 wherein the inhibitor of PACAP signalling targets expressed PACAP.
3. Use according to claim 1 wherein the inhibitor of PACAP signalling targets expressed VIP.
4. Use according to claim 1 wherein the inhibitor of PACAP signalling targets a receptor for PACAP.
5. Use according to claim 4 wherein said receptor for PACAP is the PACAP receptor (PACAPR), VPAC1 or VPAC2.
6. Use according to claim 1 wherein the inhibitor inhibits the transcription or translation of PACAP, VIP or a receptor for PACAP.
7. Use according to claim 6, wherein said receptor for PACAP is the PACAP receptor (PACAPR), VPAC1 or VPAC2.
8. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein said inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of an antisense molecule, a RNAi, an aptamer, a small molecule, an antibody, a ribozyme, a transdominant receptor, and a tetrameric peptide.
9. Use according to any of claims 1 to 8 wherein said inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of max.d,4 5, PACAP6-38, [4Cl-D-Phe6, Leu17]VIP, VIP(10-28), cyclic lactam analogs of PACAP, [AcHis(1), D-Phe(2), Lys(15),

Leu(17)]VIP(3-7)/GRF(8-27), PACAP receptor blocking Cyclic lactam PACAP analogs, N-terminal truncated or substituted VIP peptide PACAP receptor blockers, neutralising antibodies against VPAC(1) and neutralising aptamer against VPAC(1) receptor.

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10. Use according to claim 8 wherein said inhibitor is an anti-PACAP antibody or a antigen-binding fragment thereof.

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11. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein said thrombocytopenia is infection-induced thrombocytopenia or treatment-induced thrombocytopenia.

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12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an inhibitor of PACAP signalling and an additional compound for enhancing megakaryocyte maturation.

13. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein the compound for enhancing megakaryocyte maturation is thrombopoetin or Interleukin 11.